

# A Message from Your Local Governments and Law Enforcement Agencies



## CRIME PREVENTION STARTS WITH YOU

The Palos Verdes Peninsula, and the entire South Bay area, have experienced recent increases in property crimes, particularly residential burglaries and thefts from vehicles. The men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department are working hard to combat crime in your area, but it's a team effort that requires help from the community. There are a number of steps you can take immediately to harden the target and let the criminals know they are not tolerated in our community.

## SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

First and foremost, it's important to be aware of your surroundings. Recognize what is normal in your neighborhood and what is not, and to report any suspicious activity immediately to the Lomita Sheriff's Station by calling 9-1-1 or (310) 539-1661, or, if in Palos Verdes Estates by calling 9-1-1 or (310) 378-4211.



### ***Protect Your Neighborhood:***

- ▶ Get to know your neighbors!
- ▶ Join or become more active in your local Neighborhood Watch Program.
- ▶ Be on the lookout for unidentified persons or vehicles on your street. Note the time of day, along with descriptors of what you observe – e.g. color, make, model, and license plates of vehicles, height, weight, age, clothing, and ethnicity of strangers.
- ▶ Have the Sheriff's Department and/or Police Department Contact Number at hand, or on your cell phone, and be ready to call.
- ▶ Keep ears and eyes open for unusual sounds or activities at your neighbors' homes.
- ▶ Be willing to take pictures of things you find out of the ordinary – your vigilance may provide crucial evidence in apprehending criminal activity.
- ▶ Do not be afraid to bother the deputies or police officers, they are depending on you to call!

## CREATE A STRONG DEFENSE

### ***Protect Your Home:***

- ▶ Have friends or neighbors clear your newspapers and mail if you leave town. The Lomita Sheriff's Station offers vacation checks when you're away for an extended period.
- ▶ When at home or away, keep all doors locked and windows secured with security latches.
- ▶ Secure side gates and backyard access with padlocks at all times.
- ▶ Request identification from any stranger that comes to your door, including utility workers, and verify BEFORE they enter your home!
- ▶ NEVER let strangers into your home!

- ▶ Monitor workers in your yard or in your home.
- ▶ Keep valuables out of sight, preferably secured in locked cabinets or safes.
- ▶ Use motion-sensor activated lighting to secure the perimeter of your property.
- ▶ Utilize home alarms, guard animals, signage, and trimmed landscaping to create sufficient protections for your property.

***Protect Your Vehicle:***

- ▶ NEVER leave your car doors unlocked, and never leave any items of value inside your car.
- ▶ Park in locked garages if at all possible. Do not leave garage remotes in vehicles.

***Protect Yourself and Your Family:***

- ▶ Keep personal valuables in check – purses, phones, wallets, and keys should be tucked away and secured.
- ▶ Do not engage with criminals – if you find yourself a victim of crime, do not chase down the suspects. Get a description and license plate, and call your local law enforcement agency.
- ▶ Do not post vacation plans on social media sites.
- ▶ Do not place “family descriptor” stickers on your family vehicles – perpetrators can use the decals to identify the people in your household, sometimes even by age, gender, and names.
- ▶ Remind friends and visitors of these safety best practices when they come over.



**REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM!**

Together, we can prevent crime  
on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Public awareness campaign from the following agencies: the Cities of Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Lomita Station) and Palos Verdes Estates Police Department